

Fall 1995

The Joint Archives Quarterly, Volume 06.03: Fall 1995

Hope College

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The Joint Archives Quarterly

Volume 6 Number 3

Fall 1995

Sports Illustrated Visits the Archives

Each fall at Hope College, a historic class struggle is repeated. For nearly a century (the first Pull was in 1898), freshmen and sophomore men have tugged at the ends of a rope, dueled each other for hours trying to pull the other side into the river during the annual Pull. Hope women, known as morale girls, have rallied in the fight as well not only by shouting encouragement and giving water to the weary pullers, but by giving their teammates crucial signals and strategy. All participants are usually exhausted after a day in "the pits."

The Joint Archives houses many photographs, articles, letters, and other materials which document the highlights and the controversies that have surrounded the event. This year, when a reporter and photographer from *Sports Illustrated* came to cover this unique tug-of-war, the Joint Archives of Holland was one of his first stops.



Hope College Collection of the Joint Archives

Both Puller and Morale Girl Give it Their All, c.1980

It is difficult to understand current events without knowing their historical context. Realizing that they would have little to go on if all they did was show up to watch the underclassmen fight it out, the reporters headed for the Archives. Luckily, Director Larry Wagenaar was on hand to open the archives for an unscheduled Saturday visit by these special out of town guests.

Wagenaar was able to help the visitors in a variety of ways, including answering questions about the first Pull and telling stories about those legendary moments in Pull history -- like the time John Tysse '29 wrapped the rope around a tree and the time Ekdal Buys '37 tied the rope to a truck axle. One of the most memorable Pull's was in



Hope College Collection of the Joint Archives

An Early Pull, c.1907

(Continued on page 2)

From the Director

Fall always seems to be the busiest time of year here at the archives. Hope College and Western Seminary start their classes, the Holland Museum opens new exhibits, and our responsibilities as a department of the college keep us hoping. Professionally, fall is a time for conferences - learning about new things and being a part of the greater family of archivists and historians.

As you can see from this issue of the *Joint Archives Quarterly*, the mission of our organization is one of service. We collect, preserve, and make available critical historical materials which are unavailable elsewhere.

We are constantly challenged to keep up with the demands of operating a leading repository in the state and nation. In keeping with the mission of Hope to be a nationally recognized undergraduate college, our long-term goal is to become an archives with nationally significant collections complementing the local and regional materials we already have in our collection. Some of these collections already a part of our holdings include the Robert Schuller, Guy Vander Jagt, and Reformed Church in America papers which are housed at the Joint Archives.

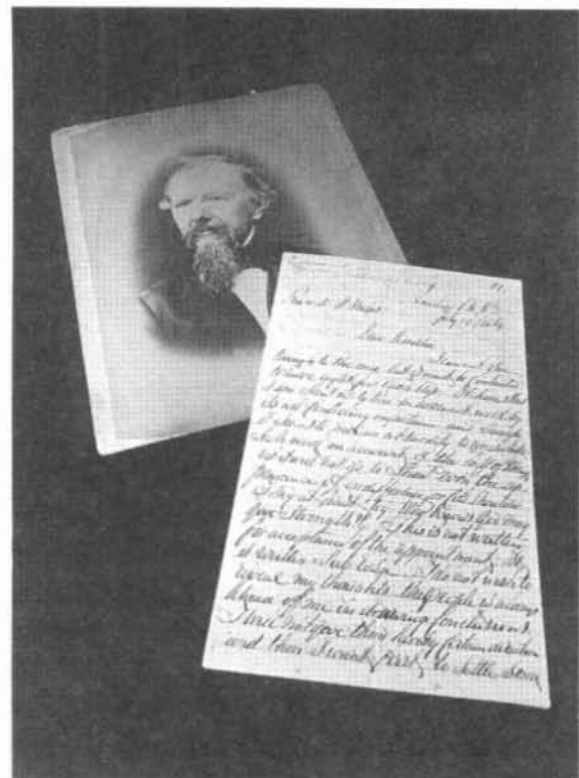
Our theme is one of service. We hope that you have found our work to be a valuable part of our community. Please feel free to call on me or Jenifer Holman if we can be of help.

Larry Wagenaar

The Joint Archives is located on the lower level of the Van Wylen Library at 10th St. and College Ave.

Hours

1-5 pm Monday-Friday
Mornings by Appointment



Hope College Collection of the Joint Archives

One of our Treasures from the Van Raalte Collection

The Pull (cont.)

1913, when, after a time of vigorous heaving on both sides, both the freshmen and the sophomores gained yards in just seconds due to a break in the rope!

This visit by *Sports Illustrated* marks the second time the magazine has covered the Pull for their readers. The last time was in October 1966. Copies of this article are available in the Archives.

This year, nearly a century after the first Pull took place, a new chapter in Pull history was written. First-year student Keri Law, the first woman puller in Hope's history, took her place in the pit as part of the '99 Pull Team.

The story of the Pull is found right here at the Joint Archives of Holland. If you would like to learn more about this or other Hope College traditions, please stop in and see us.

Archives Helps with History Day

Each year thousands of high school students take part in National History Day. Throughout the year students undertake extensive research in primary sources like those preserved at the Joint Archives. They use archival collections to prepare projects, performances, papers, and media presentations.

Students compete at the state level through History Day sponsored by the Historical Society of Michigan. Winners go on to the national competition in Washington, D.C.

In the past the Joint Archives has assisted area students conduct their research by supplying primary source materials for research and also guiding students through possible topics and issues to focus on.



Hope College Collection of the Joint Archives

Behind the Scenes at the Joint Archives

This year the selected topic is "Taking a Stand in History: Individuals, Groups, and Movements." For a local student this might include a project embracing a national theme such as Susan B. Anthony and suffrage or one blended with local activity such as the Right to Life organization.

The Joint Archives will again work with local students to suggest possible topics and how to undertake their research in primary source materials. An important mission of the archives is to "bring history to life," also an important goal of National History Day.

If you know students interested in participating in National History Day make sure to tell them about the historical collections available at the Joint Archives of Holland.

Reaching out to Hope Students

This fall the professional staff of the Joint Archives of Holland have been involved helping a wide variety of Hope College and area high school students in an effort to make the use of original materials a user-friendly experience.

Hope classes in History, English, Sociology, and other areas have visited the Joint Archives to learn how they can use unique Civil War letters, pioneer diaries, early newspapers, oral histories, and other exciting items to learn more about our past.

Examples of these instructional services include collections archivist Jenifer Smith Holman showing freshmen English students how to research their family history in the Joint Archives as well as

other libraries and research centers and director Larry Wagenaar exploring with students how to conduct an oral history interview.

These classroom experiences in support of the Hope curriculum complement the extensive research and reference assistance we provide students on a daily basis in the Archives reading room. It is unique for undergraduates to have the opportunity to use such a wealth of primary source materials. Such a professionally staffed repository is often only available at large universities.

The staff of the Joint Archives is excited to be a part of the educational mission of Hope College and a public history research center for the whole community.

RCA Oral History Project

The Joint Archives has initiated a long-term project aimed at preserving memories about life in ministry throughout the Reformed Church in America (RCA).

"I feel it is critical that we preserve the memories of those who have served in the foreign and domestic mission field," commented Joint Archives Director Larry Wagenaar. "These missionaries, along with those who have had a major impact in our local congregations, are the core of what the RCA is all about. It is essential to record the story of their lives -- and their thoughts on the Church -- before they are gone."

The Joint Archives is connected to the RCA through its Western Seminary and Hope College collections. A wide variety of personal papers of ministers and missionaries are part of these collections and we have made an ongoing commitment to preserve the historical record of these important contributions for the future.

Wagenaar has recently visited with a variety of retired and active RCA pastors and missionaries

in an effort to discuss with them their work in ministry as well as explore their thoughts on the denomination as a whole - past, present, and future. These informal interviews are an excellent opportunity to learn about the "story" of the church and actively engage those in ministry concerning their views on issues facing the denomination.

Among those who have concluded interviews with the Archives are Arlene Schuiteman (Africa), Paul and Dorothy Meyerink (Mexico), Anna De Young (Arabia), Johannes Bekkering (Canada), Imre Bertalan (US-Hungarian Reformed Church), and Rose Nykerk Battleson (Arabia).

This project is part of a larger effort to preserve the personal papers - letters, diaries, photographs and other archival materials - of pastors, missionaries, and others, especially those who are graduates of Hope College and/or Western Seminary.

Over the next several years the Joint Archives will contact people throughout the church to set up interviews. Some 15 oral histories have already been completed in California, New York, New Jersey, Iowa, and Michigan.



Western Seminary Collection of the Joint Archives

Nurses at the Amoy Mission, China, c.1935

Correction:

The lead story of the Summer 1995 *Joint Archives Quarterly* incorrectly stated (on page 1): "Frank Baum paid his first visit to the Macatawa Area in 1899." While many people speculate that Baum did visit Macatawa prior to his writing the *Wizard of Oz*, we have not, as yet, uncovered an eye witness account to place him there. I sincerely apologize for this editing oversight. I hope our readers will continue to make comments about the *Quarterly*, to suggest ideas for articles, and to share their thoughts on how we can improve our newsletter. JSH

In the News

New Accessions

Tool Works

The staff of the Joint Archives has recently salvaged 25 linear feet of business records from the Western Machine Tool Company of Holland, Michigan, for the Holland Historical Trust Collection. To say *salvaged* is not an exaggeration; water from a leaky roof and a heavy growth of mold had destroyed many records in their somewhat primitive attic records storage facility. Although the tool works operated well into the 1980s, the factory appeared frozen in time as battered Underwood typewriters filled the offices and pictures of mid-century pin-up girls adorned the factory walls.

The machine tool company, owned and operated by the Bosch family, began in the 1890s as a manufacturer of radial drills. Production expanded in the twentieth century to the production of lathes, tappers, and shapers as well. The company peaked in 1943 after they converted their shaper machines to design semi-automatic machine gun patterns for the U.S. Army. For their war-time efforts, the Western Machine Tool Works was awarded the "E" award of excellence by the United States Government. The tool works closed in 1989.

Church Records

Records of Holland's Sixth Reformed Church, 1919-1995, have recently been added to the Western Theological Seminary Collection. Once called the "light on the east side" when Sixth was the only church on Holland's east side, decreasing membership has led the congregation to merge with Calvary Reformed Church. Records include consistory minutes, membership information, bulletins, and a slide presentation outlining Sixth Reformed Church's history.



Sixth Reformed Church

Western Seminary Collection of the Joint Archives

Open for Research

The records of the Holland Community Hospital, first opened in 1919 in the former home of Dr. Henry Kremers, are now open for research. The hospital moved to its present site on Michigan Avenue in 1928. The records contain a wealth of photographs, newspaper clippings, promotional booklets, and the scrapbook of one of Holland Hospital's best known nurses, Rena Boven.

The Records of the Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton Chapter of the N.S.D.A.R. are also available for research. As the Daughters of the American Revolution is an organization that has done so much to preserve the history of our nation, it is fitting that their records should now be preserved in an archives. Holland's D.A.R. chapter was organized by Mrs. C.M. McLean in November 1907. Many scrapbooks, including one started back in 1907, document the interests and activities (both local and national) of this patriotic organization. Membership information and annual reports round out the records of the D.A.R.



Hope College Collection of the Joint Archives

Dutch Maidens of "The Pageant of 1926", a production staged by Hope students on the 60th Anniversary of Hope College

The Joint Archives of Holland

HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

Holland Historical Trust • Hope College • Western Theological Seminary

Hope College Campus • Holland, MI 49423

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